

The Final Transformation

When we grow in our spiritual life, beggars become farmers. But to be a farmer isn't the final goal of our spiritual journey. There is a last stage that we need to make: To become a beggar-farmer. We come full circle. And this is called the second innocence.

What does it mean to be a beggar-farmer? When we hold our bountiful harvest in our hand, we realize how everything—even the fruit of our labor—still comes from God. At the end of the day, nothing belongs to us. Everything is a blessing—whether seeds or fruits. And we offer them all back to God, imploring Him to “take what we bring and give what we need”. All done in His name!

Brothers and sisters, may we reach this stage of our spiritual journey and become a beggar-farmer for Him!

Questions for Reflection:

1. Am I a beggar or a farmer?
2. What gifts or blessings do I need to grow, develop and expand so I can bear fruits and stop being a beggar?
3. How can I become a beggar-farmer (coming full circle)?

Luke 12:48

Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.

LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:

**May 28 & 29.... LIVING IN THE LIGHT SEMINAR (CLASS 100),
HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

JUNE 4 & 18.... FEASTS - HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

**JULY 9 & 16.... FEASTS - MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM, 1:30 PM
(PLS. NOTE VENUE)**

JULY 23, 2011....LOJC-WIDE FAMILY DAY. DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

AUG 12, 13, 14...LIVE-IN YOUTH JESUS ENCOUNTER - LA CONSOLATA

**AUG 6 & 20... FEASTS - MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM, 1:30 PM
(PLS. NOTE VENUE)**

Prophecies - May 7th FEAST :

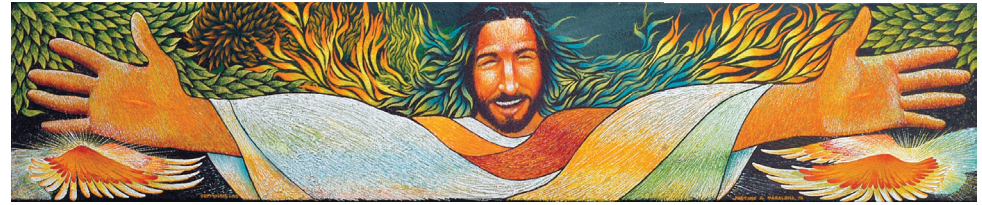
Brothers and sisters.. Remember that a person who plants few seeds will have a small crop and the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give then as you have decided, not out of sense of duty, for God loves the one who gives gladly and God is able to give you more than you need, that you will always have what you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scriptures said, he who gives generously to the needy, His kindness lasts forever."

"My children, my children, I have come for you that you might have fullness of life. But you have to seek my kingdom first so I can give all these things to you. I love you my children, remember that."

The Feast Bulletin

www.lojcanada.com

May 14, 2011



SERIES: DRENCHED

Talk 2: Grow The Blessings

In this series, DRENCHED, we have been learning that God wants to pour out blessings to us in abundance. To realize them, there are 4 steps we need to do. First, we need to SEE the blessings. Second, we need to SPEAK the blessings. Third, we need to GROW and the fourth? We will read it in the next bulletin.

Today, we'll learn how to create abundance. There is a magic key to abundance. If we switch this key we'll have more abundance in our life.

What is the magic key to abundance?

Perhaps we have been hearing this from a lot of people: I want to grow my finances. I want to grow in my career. In my prayer, I have been asking God to make me grow in my relationships with Him, my wife, my children, my big family, my in-laws and with my brothers and sisters in the community. Question is: How can I grow?

The answer might surprise you. In order to grow in all areas of your life, you've got to grow **you**. Develop your talents. Hone your craft. Shape your values. This is the magic key of abundance: **Inner Growth**.

Grow you and you grow any area of your life. If you want to grow your family, grow you. If you want to grow your ministry, grow you. You've got to grow "inside" before you grow "outside".

If we look inside, God has already given us so much blessings. All we need now is to grow those blessings. So grow in wisdom. Grow in character. Grow in skill. Grow in love. Grow in your spirit. And then the outside areas of our life will grow too.

God's big message for us today: **God gives seeds, not fruits**. When God gives a fruit, He's really not giving the fruit. He's giving the seeds within the fruit. Some people think that God is a miser because they expect God to keep on giving them fruits. But God doesn't give fruits. He gives seeds. So that we'll always have fruits

Deuteronomy 8:7-10

The Lord your God is bringing you into a fertile land — a land that has rivers and springs, and underground streams gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land that produces wheat and barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and honey.

God is bringing us into a fertile land. This is His desire for you and me. This is His plan for our life.

Do you feel as though you're working on hard, dry, unproductive land? That's not God's will for your life. This is not the life He wants you to live.

There you will never go hungry or ever be in need.

When you're hungry, or in need, or in lack, or suffering—say it out loud, "This is a temporary situation." This isn't permanent. God doesn't want you to go hungry. That's why He's giving you this fertile land.

Its rocks have iron in them, and from its hills you can mine copper. You will have all you want to eat, and you will give thanks to the Lord your God for the fertile land that he has given you.

God has given all that we need for abundance. If we plant the seeds that God has already given to us, He promises that we will harvest abundantly; in our family life, in our career, in our business, in your health.

Two Types Of People:

God gives seeds, not fruits. But we always love the fruit, and ignore the seed. So we eat the fruit and throw away the seeds. That's crazy. It's just like receiving the key to our dream house or car but wrapped in a strikingly beautiful box. We were awed by the gift wrapper that we throw away the box but keep the wrapper. Foolish? That's what we do when we prefer the fruit over the seeds.

Here's a very important spiritual point: There are two kinds of people when it comes to receiving blessings: 1) Beggar and 2) Farmer

Question: Who are you?

Beggar Mindset

Many religious people have a beggar mindset. They want God to give them fruits. But they're not interested in planting and growing the seeds—so that they'll have a lifetime supply of fruits.

We all start as beggars. When we were born, we didn't come out as a university graduate or as an individual filled with wisdom. For sure, some parents would have wished their babies to come out into this world matured and professional.

We came out as a baby. And babies are beggar! Why? Well, they cannot do anything on their own. They have to "beg" their Moms and Dads to "change me" or "feed me". The problem is: Some people never grow up! They remain babies for life.

The Israelites began in the desert as beggars.

When the Israelite slaves escaped Egypt, they had to cross the desert. When they got hungry, Moses prayed to God to feed them. So one morning, when they woke up, they saw white, fluffy stuff hanging from the trees. They looked at it, picked it up, touched it, smelled it, tasted it, and asked, "What is this?" That question is the literal meaning of the word, *manna*.

Can you imagine? That's like waking up one morning, looking out your window, and seeing pan de sal or bagels hanging from the trees. Wouldn't that be fun?

But after a few days, the Israelites began to complain. "We're tired of eating the same food"! So God sent low-flying, slow-moving, foolish birds called quails that said, "Catch me, catch me!" And the Israelites grabbed the birds, put them in their bread, and ate to their heart's content.

Is there anything better than eating food falling from the sky? This kind of life is great, right? But alas, there are problems.

Problem 1: Beggars don't grow much. Problem 2: Beggars don't give much.

Problem 1: Beggars Don't Grow Much

Because of manna magically appearing before them, the Israelites never learned how to till the soil, how to plant the right seeds, how to take care of the crops, how to sell their produce. All they had to do was wait for food to fall from the sky.

In other words, they didn't grow in their farming skills, their marketing skills, their teamwork skills, their management skills... They never learned how to save, how to invest, how to multiply their resources... And more importantly, they also missed out in growing in their character—their perseverance, their patience, their ability to do hard work...

And begging has another problem...

Problem 2: Beggars Don't Give Much

The Israelites found out that when they kept manna for the next day, it would rot. They had to go out and get fresh manna everyday.

The Bible says, "*This is the food that the Lord has given you to eat... Each had gathered just what he needed.*" (Exodus 16:15)

The wonderful thing with manna was that it was exactly what you needed. The not-so-wonderful thing with manna was that it was exactly what you needed... only!

We Filipinos like to say, "If I eat three times a day, I'll be happy. On one hand, he's simple. Content. Happy. Satisfied. On the other hand, he's selfish! Because he's only thinking of himself.

And many religious people are trapped in this beggar mindset. They think it's pleasing to God. Not realizing that, yes, we all start as beggars. But it's not our permanent state. From the desert with manna, He wants us to move to the promised land where there's milk and honey flowing.

Two Levels Of Blessing

We can live in either two levels of blessing. There's "Enough" and there's "More Than Enough." Where are you living right now?

In the Bible, God calls Himself El Shaddai, the God who is "More Than Enough." And God wants to move us from "Enough" to "More Than Enough." The only thing that prevents us from moving from "Enough" to "More Than Enough" is our mindset. Let's learn to be a Farmer.

2. Farmer Mindset

When the Israelites finally left the Desert and entered the Promised Land, the Bible says that the manna stopped falling.

The manna stopped falling then, and the Israelites no longer had any. From that time on they ate food grown in Canaan. (Joshua 5:12)

Why? Because they can now plant in God's fertile land. So from beggars, they became farmers. In other words, they just didn't receive their blessings. They received and grew their blessings. And when we grow your blessings, we grow our inner self. We grow in our skills and character.

There are 4 Steps In Farming.

- 1.) Plow
- 2.) Plant
- 3.) Persevere
- 4.) Produce

Each step is crucial to having abundance in our life. Problem is beggars want to jump to Step 4. They want to produce and harvest right away.

But Steps 1 to 3 are crucial to growing our inner self. God has given us the land. It's our job to plant that land. Don't complain that we don't have blessings. He gave us the land. Have we planted?

In the same way, God has given you your life. He has given you gifts. Have you developed those gifts? Or are we stuck in the desert with Manna?